

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A lock system for securing a printer door to prevent theft of an ink cartridge, the lock system comprising:

    a lock housing attachable adjacent the printer door and having a lateral aperture extending generally parallel thereto; and

    a locking member with a locking portion disposed within the lateral aperture and being slidable therealong between unlock and lock positions, the locking portion substantially retracting within the lateral aperture when in the unlock position, the locking portion extending over the printer door when in the lock position to secure the same and prevent theft of the ink cartridge thereby.

2. The lock system of Claim 1 wherein the lock housing has a generally cylindrical configuration.

3. The lock system of Claim 1 wherein the lock housing is fabricated from a metallic material.

4. The lock system of Claim 1 wherein the lock housing is fabricated from a plastic material.

5. The lock system of Claim 1 wherein the locking member is fabricated from a metallic material.

6. The lock system of Claim 1 wherein the locking member is an elongated bar.

7. The lock system of Claim 1 wherein the lock

housing has a side housing surface and the locking member has locking and unlocking ends each with a stopper, each of the stoppers being configured to abut respective portion of the side housing surface to confine the slidability of the locking member between the unlock and lock positions.

8. The lock system of Claim 1 further comprising a lock device engaged within the lock housing and being sized and configured to maintain the locking member in the lock position.

9. The lock system of Claim 8 wherein the lock device comprises a longitudinal aperture in communication with the lateral aperture and extending generally perpendicular thereto, the lock device having an engaging member with a lower engaging portion disposed within the longitudinal aperture and being movable between disengaging and engaging positions, the lower engaging portion retracting within the longitudinal aperture when forming the disengaging position, the lower engaging portion extending into the lateral aperture and being sized and configured to maintain the locking member in the lock position when forming the engaging position.

10. The lock system of Claim 10 wherein the locking member comprises an arcuate notch and the lower engaging portion extends thereinto when forming the engaging position.

11. A printer with a lock system for preventing theft

of an ink cartridge, the printer comprising:

a printer body having a printer door sized and configured to open and close with respect thereto; and  
a lock system comprising:

a lock housing attached to the printer body adjacent the printer door thereof, the lock housing having a lateral aperture extending generally parallel to the printer door; and

a locking member with a locking portion disposed within the lateral aperture and being slidable therealong between unlock and lock positions, the locking portion substantially retracting within the lateral aperture when in the unlock position, the locking portion extending over the printer door when in the lock position to secure the same and prevent theft of the ink cartridge thereby.

12. The printer of Claim 11 wherein the locking member is an elongated metallic bar.

13. The printer of Claim 11 wherein the lock housing has a side housing surface and the locking member has locking and unlocking ends each with a stopper, each of the stoppers being configured to abut respective portion of the side housing surface to confine the slidability of the locking member between the unlock and lock positions.

14. The printer of Claim 11 wherein the lock housing

has a base housing surface, the base housing surface being attached to the printer body via adhesive.

15. The printer of Claim 11 wherein the lock system further comprises a lock device engaged within the lock housing and being sized and configured to maintain the locking member in the lock position.

16. The printer of Claim 15 wherein the lock device comprises a longitudinal aperture in communication with the lateral aperture and extending generally perpendicular thereto, the lock device having an engaging member with a lower engaging portion disposed within the longitudinal aperture and being movable between disengaging and engaging positions, the lower engaging portion retracting within the longitudinal aperture when forming the disengaging position, the lower engaging portion extending into the lateral aperture and being sized and configured to maintain the locking member in the lock position when forming the engaging position.

17. The lock system of Claim 16 wherein the locking member comprises an arcuate notch and the lower engaging portion extends thereinto when forming the engaging position.

18. A method of securing a printer door of a printer to prevent theft of an ink cartridge, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) adhering a lock system to the printer

adjacent the printer door thereof;

b) manually sliding a locking member toward the printer door;

c) maintaining the locking member over the printer door; and

d) obstructing the printer door from opening with the locking member so as to secure the printer door and prevent theft of the ink cartridge thereby.

19. The method of Claim 18 further comprising the step of:

e) manually sliding the locking member away from the printer door so as to allow the printer door to open and close.

20. The method of Claim 18 wherein the locking member is an elongated metallic bar.